United Nations A/53/275

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 August 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Item 23 of the provisional agenda*
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

			Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction		1	2
II.	Consultations and exchange of information		2–4	2
III.	Information received from the United Nations system		5–65	2
	A.	United Nations Secretariat	6–18	2
	B.	United Nations Development Programme	19–30	4
	C.	United Nations Environment Programme	31–34	5
	D.	United Nations International Drug Control Programme	35–38	6
	E.	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	39	7
	F.	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women	40–41	7
	G.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	42–47	7
	H.	Universal Postal Union	48	8
	I.	World Bank	49	8
	J.	World Food Programme	50	8
	K.	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	51–65	8

* A/53/150.

98-24650 (E) 040998

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution A/51/16 of 11 November 1996, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community", by which, *inter alia*, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its fifty-third session.

II. Consultations and exchange of information

2. At the First General Meeting between Representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and its Associated Institutions and of the United Nations system, held at United Nations Headquarters on 27 and 28 May 1997, both Secretaries-General made opening statements. During the meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of CARICOM signed a Cooperation Agreement between the two organizations. The meeting recognized that there already existed a high degree of collaboration between the United Nations and CARICOM. It, however, welcomed new areas of possible cooperation and agreed that those should be further explored and developed, subject to financial and human resource constraints. The report of the meeting, containing its conclusions and recommendations, was issued as UN/CARICOM/GM1/1997/1.

3. On 28 and 29 July 1998, the Secretary-General of CARICOM attended the Third Meeting between the United Nations and Regional Organizations which was convened by the Secretary-General to discuss practical and more effective ways of preventing conflicts. In his opening address, the Secretary-General stated that the need for increased cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations had never been greater and that they had an obligation to enhance their cooperation for the prevention of deadly conflicts.

4. At the invitation of CARICOM, the United Nations was represented by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Deputy Secretary-General, respectively, at the 18th and 19th Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean, held in Jamaica and Saint Lucia, in July 1997 and 1998.

III. Information received from the United Nations system

5. In response to a request by the Department of Political Affairs, the heads of agencies, programmes, departments and offices of the United Nations system supplied the information summarized below.

A. United Nations Secretariat

Department of Political Affairs

6. The Department of Political Affairs is the focal point for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. In that capacity, the Department coordinated the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/16, including the conv ning of the First General Meeting between Representatives of the Caribbean Community and its Associated Institutions and the United Nations system and the preparation of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly.

7. The Department was also responsible for the substantive organization of the Third Meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations. The meeting examined the potential for greater interaction and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the field of conflict prevention within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations and the mandates of regional organizations. While recognizing that no single model of cooperation would cover all eventualities, various possible modalities for cooperation were considered on the basis of the currently existing organizational strengths and capabilities.

8. Pursuant to resolution 49/141, the Department sent notes verbales and letters to the heads of all components of the United Nations system, requesting them to identify, in their respective offices, officers responsible for CARICOM affairs who would be CARICOM focal points in various areas of work. Subsequently, the Department established and continues to maintain a list of United Nations focal points which was communicated to CARICOM in order to facilitate a more pragmatic and cost-effective cooperation between the two systems.

9. The Department was represented at the Conference on Governance, Democracy and Civil Society in the Caribbean Community, co-sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the CARICOM secretariat, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the University

of the West Indies, held in Christ Church, Barbados, on 9 and 10 September 1997. The Department was also invited to observe the Second OAS/CARICOM General Meeting which took place at OAS headquarters, Washington, D.C., on 23 and 24 April 1998.

10. In carrying out its mandate, the Department maintains close contact with the officials of the CARICOM secretariat, permanent representatives of States members of CARICOM and the permanent observer of CARICOM to the United Nations.

Office of Internal Oversight Services

11. During the period 30 March–3 April 1998, the Office organized a week-long briefing and orientation programme on its organization and functions for Ms. Margaret Godson-Phillips, Head of CARICOM's Oversight Office. Separate and detailed sessions were held with Ms. Godson-Phillips by 10 oversight officers on, among other subjects, the auditing, monitoring and evaluation methods and techniques used by the Office in the day-to-day exercise of its internal oversight functions. The Office also provided Ms. Godson-Phillips with a variety of publications and other materials – copies of United Nations staff and financial regulations and rules, the United Nations procurement manual etc. – which, it was indicated, would be used as a basis for assessing the adequacy of comparable CARICOM issuances.

Department of Public Information

12. During the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the General Assembly, the Department gave coverage to statements by Heads of State or Government and Foreign Ministers of the region, through its 15-minute radio feature "UN Caribbean Magazine" (English, adapted into Dutch and French Creole) as well as segments of its weekly news programme "Caribbean News Roundup". It produced a six-part series on law of the sea matters and interviewed both the Deputy Secretary-General of the International Sea-Bed Authority and the Registrar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

13. Two radio feature programmes exclusively devoted to the subject were produced: "The Caribbean Community and the United Nations getting closer" and "Improving cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations to prevent conflicts – a perspective from the CARICOM Secretary-General".

14. A wide range of issues and events concerning the United Nations and CARICOM were covered extensively by the Department's multimedia services, particularly through press releases, radio magazines and feature programmes. Some of the highlights included: the signing of the cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community in May 1997; the United Nations Secretary-General's address stressing "a new era of partnership" between the United Nations and CARICOM at the June 1997 meeting of the Caribbean Heads of Government in Jamaica; the May 1997 Regional Seminar on Decolonization, held in Antigua and Barbuda; CARICOM seeking United Nations support to stop transshipment of nuclear waste through the Caribbean Sea; CARICOM member States expressing support for the establishment of an international criminal court; CARICOM's appeal to the international community to support the Iwokrama International Rain Forest Programme; a CARICOM and United Nations convention to empower children; the views of CARICOM member States on human rights issues; the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General's attendance at the Conference of CARICOM's Heads of State, held in July 1998; and the ceremonies commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chaguaramas Treaty establishing CARICOM and the Caribbean Common Market in 1973.

15. Other themes covered extensively by the Department included sustainable development (follow-up to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States); poverty reduction programmes (Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Eradication of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)); cooperation in the area of governance and development; trade and investment (documentaries on the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI), and a look at the role of ECLAC); and the problem of drugs and the increase of small arms and crime in the region.

16. In the area of library and publication services, the following developments should be acknowledged. During the period under review, the Department intensified its network of gift-and-exchange partners in the region through the Dag Hammarskjöld Library. Also, appropriate action was taken to ensure that CARICOM was regularly receiving United Nations documents and publications. In turn, the Dag Hammarskjold Library regularly receives the documents and publications issued by CARICOM and indexes them in its documentation database (UNBIS/Horizon).

17. A Library workshop for United Nations depository librarians in the region on the use of United Nations documents is being planned for January 1999 in Port of Spain.

18. The *Yearbook of the United Nations* continued its regular coverage of developments regarding cooperation

between the United Nations and CARICOM, including publishing the full texts of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the subject. The *UN Chronicle* has reported on cooperation between the United Nations and CARICOM in the context of its coverage of General Assembly proceedings as well as deliberations of other legislative bodies. Issue No. 3 (1998) carries an article especially written for the *Chronicle* by Ambassador Patrick Lewis of Antigua and Barbuda on CARICOM concerns voiced at the General Assembly's twentieth special session on the problem of illicit drugs.

B. United Nations Development Programme

19. Cooperation between UNDP and CARICOM is conducted largely through the national country programmes, the Regional Cooperation Framework for Latin America and the Caribbean (CARICOM component) and the subregional Caribbean Multi-Island Programme which supports initiatives for the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

20. The focus of UNDP's cooperation programmes derives from the mandates of its Executive Board and from consultations with national Governments and relevant institutions – namely, the CARICOM and OECS secretariats. UNDP's programmes are focused primarily on the thematic areas of poverty eradication, environmental management, governance and development, and trade and integration, with gender as a cross-cutting theme. Efforts aimed at streamlining and focusing the programmes continue in view of the necessity to assist the countries in mobilizing external resources for capacity-building and development. Strengthening coordination among development partners and forging strategic alliances with other donors – bilateral and multilateral – have also assumed greater importance.

21. In addition to the traditional technical cooperation programmes, the Caribbean region also benefits from other technical cooperation programmes of UNDP. They include the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and GEF Small Grants Programme, the Montreal Protocol, the Partners in Development Programme, LIFE Programme, and the Poverty Strategies Initiative Fund. Moreover, in an effort to deliver UNDP's technical cooperation support in a more efficient and effective manner, the Organization proposes to establish a subregional resource facility in the Caribbean region which will focus on the establishment of an on-line referral service consisting of a network of institutions and individuals, the capturing and sharing of "best practices", and the delivery of substantive technical advice on sustainable human development matters to country offices, Governments and the United Nations system as a whole.

Follow-up to recent global conferences

22. In line with the mandates and recommendations arising from recent global conferences, especially in the area of poverty eradication and social development, UNDP continues to assist Caribbean Governments in their efforts to formulate and implement national poverty eradication plans, strategies and policies. The Poverty Strategies Initiative has provided critical support for implementation of the commitments undertaken at the World Summit for Social Development. Substantive support has also been provided to programme countries for engaging national partners in a dialogue on the policy and institutional framework for poverty reduction and for the conduct of poverty surveys and assessments. Proposed assistance, too, is planned for activities that will build capacities for the establishment of a comprehensive approach to poverty measurement and monitoring beyond traditional income indicators.

23. With regard to environmental protection and regeneration, ongoing technical cooperation support is being provided for building physical planning capacities and for programmes that link environmental management with poverty eradication. Assistance too, is being provided to countries to develop coordinated strategies and policies for natural resource management that are consistent with international agreements, conventions, accords, and action plans. In addition, CARICOM countries are receiving support through UNDP's forestry programme and the biodiversity window of the GEF in developing strategies for sustainable forest management and the protection of biodiversity

24. The Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) served as a major catalyst for the Caribbean region to rethink its approach and policy orientation towards human settlements development. UNDP provided strategic support to Governments in the formulation of a Caribbean Human Settlements Plan of Action which was endorsed in April 1997. In collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlement, support has been provided for the development of land-use and management strategies and environmental protection in the Caribbean. In view of the region's proneness to natural disasters, in collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United States Aid for International Development (USAID), among others, UNDP has continued to provide support to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency

Response Agency, in order to improve disaster response, management and preparedness.

Technical cooperation in sustainable development

25. The Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within UNDP has been given the mandate for the Organization's follow-up to the global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. In fulfilment of this mandate for the implementation of the relevant technical assistance programme, UNDP completed a directory of experts on small island developing States (SIDS). A needs assessment survey aimed at determining the region's technical cooperation requirements was also completed. The mandate for facilitating electronic networking among small island developing States, under the rubric SIDSNET, will, after much delay, shortly be fulfilled. The network, which will initially focus on three chapters of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[1] is expected to incorporate eventually all the issues of the Programme of Action. In addition, UNDP is currently providing support to national and regional organizations through the Regional Caribbean Capacity 21 Programme in the development of Web homepages and in the provision of a regional node of the Sustainable Development Networking Programme to foster networking between those organizations. This process has been undertaken in collaboration with the University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development, the Caribbean Conservation Association, and the Jamaica Resources Conservation Authority, among others.

26. In order to assist the Governments of the region more directly in building their capacities for sustainable development, UNDP appointed a Caribbean Sustainable Development Advisor, who currently functions out of the Trinidad and Tobago country office. The Advisor's primary responsibilities are to oversee the delivery of the Capacity 21 Programme, which is aimed at providing assistance to countries in improving their national capacity for implementing Agenda 21, support the implementation of the Programme of Action and provide substantive technical and policy advice to member Governments of CARICOM.

Trade and integration

27. In the area of trade and integration, UNDP's assistance to the Caribbean region has taken the form of providing support to CARICOM. Specifically, assistance has been provided for the establishment of a CARICOM single market and economy, through the design of an appropriate legal framework and then support for putting it into operation. Support too, is ongoing for broad-based consultations and an awareness-building campaign which aims at fostering consensus on the purposes and potential benefits of economic and trade integration.

28. As CARICOM continues to deepen its own integration scheme, there are many simultaneous trade and economic negotiation processes ongoing for which technical support is required. UNDP will continue to assist in building the negotiating capacities of CARICOM countries to prepare their own agendas for trade negotiations at the global, hemispheric and regional levels. Targeted support is planned, too, for enhancing the region's competitiveness in the production of goods and services, thereby facilitating its further integration into the global economy.

Governance and development

29. UNDP commissioned a study on this topic in an effort to stimulate discussion and promote dialogue on the range of governance issues from a Caribbean perspective. Last September, UNDP co-sponsored, along with the Inter-American Development Bank, OAS and the CARICOM secretariat, among others, the regional Conference on Governance, Democracy and Civil Society. UNDP's assistance in the area of governance has focused generally on capacity-building for the reform of public administrations, strengthening the electoral process, support for building capacities of civil society organizations, and assistance to countries in special circumstances, including playing a leading role in coordinating resource mobilization efforts during the recovery phase. In addition, UNDP has provided support to decentralization efforts to enable people to participate more meaningfully in governance processes and decision-making and to encourage their active involvement in the formulation of development programmes that are tailored to their local needs and priorities.

30. UNDP intends to work more closely in partnership with non-governmental organizations, women's organizations and community-based organizations and will promote greater gender equality in procedures, structures and functions of governance.

C. United Nations Environment Programme

31. UNEP provided support to the CARICOM secretariat for the preparation and convening of the Caribbean Sea

Forum, held in Trinidad and Tobago from 2 to 6 June 1998, in celebration of the Year of the Ocean.

32. The projects/activities below have been or will be undertaken in the CARICOM countries, although not directly in conjunction with CARICOM:

(a) Collaboration with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States on the Workshop on Implementation of International Treaties and Conventions, held in Saint Kitts and Nevis, 23-26 June 1998;

(b) Ongoing assistance for land-based pollution management in Point Lisas, Trinidad and Tobago, through the UNEP Heavily Contaminated Bays Project;

(c) Project proposal to be implemented at the end of 1998 on marine planning, with special emphasis on environment and fisheries. The project might initially be implemented in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago;

(d) Implementation of the project Sand Dune Rehabilitation, in Anguilla from June 1997 to July 1998, in collaboration with OECS. The objectives are the rehabilitation of dunes in two sites in Anguilla and the building of awareness on sand dune rehabilitation and beach erosion processes;

(e) Ongoing development of the National Turtle Recovery Plan, in Trinidad and Tobago, which includes training and awareness activities;

(f) Implementation of the project Improving Water Quality, of the west coast of Saint Lucia, which began in June 1997 and ended in July 1998, in collaboration with the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute. The objective is to provide support for the improvement of sewage treatment plant operations for three hotels;

(g) Ongoing development of national manatee recovery plans for Belize and Trinidad and Tobago;

(h) For late 1998, coral reef monitoring activities and support for a marine protected area in Saint Lucia;

(i) Technical assistance to Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago to establish information systems through the Internet, in order to strengthen the capabilities of managing data on coastal and marine environment resources.

33. All CARICOM countries were invited to participate in the following training activities:

(a) Solid and Waste Water Management for the Tourism Industry, Saint Lucia, 2–9 February 1998;

(b) Training the Trainers on Integrated Coastal Area Management for Tourism, Jamaica, 9–20 February 1998;

(c) Integrated Coastal Area Management for Tourism, Barbados, 27–30 April 1998.

34. The following technical reports will be distributed to all CARICOM countries:

(a) *Regional Overview of Best Management Practices in Hotels and Marine Protected Areas*;

(b) *Environmental Management Tool Kit*: a volume with information on guidance of environmental enhancement for hotels;

(c) *Green Resource Directory*: techniques, products and services for improved environmental management in tourism facilities;

(d) *Code of Conduct for Hotels*: set of consolidated guidelines of various strategic documents;

(e) *Regional Environmental Action Plan for Tourism*: key steps for the implementation of Agenda 21 in the Caribbean;

(f) *Database on Marine Protected Areas of the Wider Caribbean*.

D. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

35. UNDCP and CARICOM have strengthened their relationship to ensure regional coordination and cooperation in drug control.

36. CARICOM remains a principal partner of UNDCP in the Caribbean in the context of the Barbados Plan of Action, adopted at the Regional Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation and Coordination, Bridgetown, Barbados, 15–17 May 1996. Both organizations keep each other informed on their activities and initiatives related to drug control. Apart from this ongoing dialogue, CARICOM has participated in the task force meetings on drug control organized by the UNDCP Caribbean Drug Control Coordination Mechanism and held in Bridgetown, Barbados, 20–24 October 1997. The CARICOM was also represented at the Second Regional Meeting on Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean, organized by UNDCP, and held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 8–9 December 1997.

37. UNDCP and CARICOM also collaborate at the level of technical cooperation: UNDCP participates and financially contributes to the Health and Family Life Education Project that CARICOM is launching with other United Nations agencies, national Governments and non-

governmental organizations. CARICOM has also been actively involved in the planning of a regional epidemiological surveillance system to assess and monitor drug abuse patterns and trends in the Caribbean, a UNDCP project starting in the second half of 1998.

38. Ongoing cooperation between UNDCP and the associate institutions of CARICOM will continue through the next year: the University of the West Indies, in cooperation with the Caribbean Law Institute Centre, carries out a UNDCP-funded legal training programme aiming at more efficient prosecution and adjudication of drug trafficking and money laundering offences. UNDCP is also funding a Certificate Programme in Addiction Studies at the University, executed by the Canadian Addiction and Mental Health Services Corporation. On 18 May 1998, the Caribbean Development Bank and UNDCP signed a memorandum of understanding to promote the principle of good governance in the Caribbean in the context of their respective mandates.

E. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

39. While UNHCR has not carried out any specific programmes with CARICOM during the biennium 1997–1998, it is committed to renewing the dialogue with its CARICOM counterparts in the near future.

F. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

40. During the twenty-second meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (4–7 November 1997, Saint Lucia), organized by CARICOM, INSTRAW presented a paper "Measuring unwaged work for inclusion in national accounts".

41. Contact will be made with CARICOM in the coming months in order to explore possible areas of collaboration, particularly around those research and training programmes of the Institute that bear relevance to the Caribbean region.

G. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

42. UNESCO cooperates in the following ways with the CARICOM secretariat:

(a) UNESCO participates officially in the meetings of CARICOM Ministers responsible for Education and Culture, now part of the Council for Human and Social Development;

(b) A UNESCO culture adviser sits on the Regional Cultural Committee, a forum of Directors of Culture of CARICOM, convened by the CARICOM secretariat;

(c) The CARICOM secretariat participates fully in the biennial consultations of the Caribbean Network of Educational Innovation for Development;

(d) The representatives of the CARICOM secretariat played a coordinating role in the preparatory meeting (6–8 April 1998) for the planned UNESCO Focus on the Caribbean, a consultation process intended to identify the priority needs of small member States of the Caribbean subregion in the areas of capacity-building and environment-friendly development, poverty and exclusion, migration, youth, gender imbalance, urban violence and drug abuse; and to ascertain the ways in which UNESCO could be of assistance in meeting those needs in its areas of competence;

(e) CARICOM participated as an intergovernmental organization in the UNESCO General Conference.

43. UNESCO also cooperates with CARICOM in supporting the following CARICOM programmes and projects:

(a) An agreement was signed on 6 November 1997 between UNESCO and CARICOM for the implementation of the Human Resource Development Strategy agreed on by CARICOM Heads of Government. One major component of the Strategy relates to the use of adult and continuing education for out-of-school youth, the unemployed or those who need to upgrade their skills to be able to make increased use of new technologies;

(b) UNESCO is giving financial support to the Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA), to be held in St. Kitts in August 1999;

(c) UNESCO also lends technical and, in some cases, financial support to media institutions such as the Caribbean Broadcasting Union, the Caribbean Institute of Mass Communication, the Caribbean News Agency, the Caribbean Media Workers Association and to media non-governmental organizations in the region which are collaborative agencies of CARICOM;

(d) Through its Kingston office, UNESCO collaborates with the Commonwealth of Learning and the University of the West Indies in a Commonwealth-funded programme to determine distance-teacher education needs;

(e) UNESCO's Kingston office and the UNESCO Institute for Education work in close association with the Caribbean Regional Council on Adult Education, which is recognized by the CARICOM Ministers of Education as the regional non-governmental advisory body on adult education;

(f) The Caribbean Network of Educational Innovation for Development cooperates with CARICOM in the implementation of several projects, such as the development of mathematics textbooks for primary school;

(g) UNESCO supports national projects in CARICOM countries through national commissions and regional projects through the CARICOM secretariat. It also supports directly several projects with various non-governmental organizations in the CARICOM subregion.

44. The Sustainable Development Unit of CARICOM has expressed interest in integrating the UNESCO Associated Schools Caribbean Sea Project into the outcomes of the Caribbean Sea Forum, which took place from 3 to 6 June 1998. The outcomes include a broad-based Caribbean Sea agenda and elements of a strategy covering national, regional and hemispheric initiatives aimed at improving the management of the semi-enclosed Caribbean Sea and its fragile coastal and ocean marine resources. The Forum contributed to the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.

45. The recommendations of the Forum will be submitted to the appropriate policy-making bodies in CARICOM, including the Conference of Heads of Government. It will also provide a major contribution to the presentation that CARICOM Foreign Ministers have agreed should be made to the special session of the General Assembly in 1999, to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.[1]

46. UNESCO's Science and Technology Programme in the Caribbean has been carried out, in close collaboration with the CARICOM secretariat. The umbrella programme, Application of Science and Technology to Development in the Caribbean, which was managed by the UNESCO Science and Technology adviser for the Caribbean, was a collaborative effort of UNESCO, UNDP and the CARICOM secretariat.

47. It was within the context of the Science and Technology Programme that a breakthrough was made in 1996 in solving the bacterial spot problem with peppers and tomatoes in Barbados and the eastern Caribbean. In the biotechnology component of the Programme the University of the West Indies researchers at the Cave Hill Campus in 1997 took an important step towards eradicating the pervasive yam anthracnose disease. As a result the re-establishment in Barbados of the elite export variety White Lisbon Yam is expected.

H. Universal Postal Union

48. Contacts between the Universal Postal Union and CARICOM have always been intense and have increased since 1995, with the creation of the post of a UPU regional adviser for the Caribbean subregion. Several coordination meetings have taken place between the regional adviser, the postal authorities of the subregion and CARICOM, leading to the setting up of the Caribbean Postal Union.

I. World Bank

49. The World Bank and CARICOM cooperate in the area of providing a framework for economic integration in the Caribbean. The main forum for this cooperation is the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development, a consultative group chaired by the World Bank which brings together the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean region plus Haiti and the Dominican Republic. CARICOM is a member of the Steering Committee, the coordinating body of the Caribbean Group, which sets its regional agenda. CARICOM represents, together with the University of the West Indies, the only two Caribbean-wide institutions in the Steering Committee.

J. World Food Programme

50. No official formal cooperation agreement exists between WFP and CARICOM, but, at the country level, there is informal interchange, including seminars and workshops.

K. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

51. During 1996, 1997 and 1998, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean collaborated with the CARICOM secretariat on a number of issues related to its work programme. The Caribbean Development and

Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) provided support in numerous subject areas.

Economic development

52. ECLAC provided the CARICOM secretariat with a number of documents for use in preparation of background papers for CARICOM Heads of Government meetings, such as summaries and reviews of Caribbean economic performance in 1995, 1996 and 1997 and the substantive support to the second meeting of the CARICOM Working Group on Disadvantaged Countries, organized by CARICOM in Barbados on 17 December 1997.

Trade and finance matters

53. The technical secretariat supported the conduct of the first meeting of the CARICOM Negotiating Working Group on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), organized by the CARICOM secretariat in Guyana on 4 and 5 April 1997. It also attended the Sixteenth Special Meeting of the Council of Ministers of CARICOM, convened in Guyana from 24 to 27 June 1996, and will continue to provide technical support in discussions on FTAA.

Sustainable development/environment issues

54. ECLAC and CARICOM have been jointly mandated by the 1994 Global Conference to undertake the role of joint interim secretariat for the implementation of the Programme of Action.[1]

55. A proposal for a joint coordinating mechanism was endorsed by the CARICOM Council of Ministers and was then submitted to the European Union for extrabudgetary funding.

56. The ECLAC secretariat collaborated with CARICOM and other agencies in the convening of the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Caribbean Small Island States: The Way Forward, Barbados, 10–14 November 1997.

Women in development and gender issues

57. The secretariat collaborated with UNIFEM and CARICOM in a review of gender-related issues as they pertain to the development of women in the Caribbean. It also assisted in the convening of the CARICOM Meeting of Ministers with Responsibility for Women's Affairs, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 28 November 1996.

58. The secretariat convened a special workshop on women and decision-making in Guyana, 12 June 1997. It also assisted in the convening, in Guyana from 6 to 8 August 1997, of the CARICOM/ECLAC/UNIFEM Post-Beijing Encounter: A Caribbean Subregional Ministerial Conference in preparation for the Seventh Session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, for which it prepared the report (LC/CAR/G.508).

Science and technology

59. The secretariat, through the Caribbean Council on Science and Technology (CCST), assisted in the preparations for global and regional conferences in science and technology. ECLAC/CDCC, through CCST, provided technical assistance in the conduct of its national consultation on science and technology and human resource development within the CARICOM single market.

60. The secretariat provided substantive support in the convening and conduct of the CCST/CARICOM meeting preparatory to the Hemispheric Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology, held in Guyana from 10 to 12 March 1996 (LC/CAR/G.475, CCST/96/1).

61. Through CCST, in Guyana, in September 1996, ECLAC/CDCC collaborated with the CARICOM secretariat at the technical consultation on the Bolivia Summit, held by CARICOM and the University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development. The ECLAC secretariat also assisted in the convening and conduct of a CARICOM meeting on agriculture, held in Belize from 25 to 28 May 1997. CARICOM's officers are on the planning teams for many CCST projects. ECLAC/CDCC, through CCST, and in collaboration with CARICOM, facilitated the Coastal and Ocean Studies Network. CARICOM participated in the meetings of the Joint Planning Committee, held in the United States Virgin Islands on 2 and 3 April 1998, to review plans for the implementation of a training workshop on the teaching of science and mathematics at the primary level.

Information and statistics

62. The ECLAC secretariat assisted in the conduct of a workshop on measuring the impact of information on decision-making, organized by the CARICOM secretariat and held in Guyana, in April 1996. It continues to collaborate with CARICOM and the Caribbean Development Bank in the implementation of the Caribbean Regional Information System programme. It offered support to the Consultative Committee of the Caribbean Regional Information System in the convening and conduct of the meeting of the Caribbean Regional System for Exchange of Information and Experience in Science and Technology, held

in Saint Lucia in October 1996. It also assisted in the convening of the First Meeting of Chief Information Officers of Caribbean Countries, organized by CARICOM and held in Guyana, 18–19 November 1996.

Population and development

63. The ECLAC secretariat provided technical support in the conduct of the CARICOM/UNICEF Consultation on Health and Family Life Education, held in Barbados in April 1996. It also provided resource support at the CARICOM Regional Consultation on Human Resources convened in Barbados, 19–21 November 1996.

Training programmes

64. ECLAC assisted CARICOM in the conduct of a high-level diplomatic workshop entitled Towards the Year 2000: Prospects and Challenges for CARICOM. Organized by the CARICOM secretariat, it dealt with the tasks of reconciling regional policies with global trends.

65. In addition, during the reporting period, ECLAC attended 10 meetings convened by CARICOM, and similarly, CARICOM participated in 11 meetings organized by ECLAC/CDCC.

Notes

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Barbados, 26 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.